

Borough of Morpeth.

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. HUGH DICKIE),

THE

Housing Inspector

(Mr. ROBERT N. ARMSTRONG),

AND THE

Borough Surveyor

and Inspector of Nuisances

(Mr. J. DAVISON),

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

MORPETH :

J. and J. S. Mackay, 19, Bridge Street.

1921.

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR ENDING 1920.

Mr. MAYOR and GENTLEMEN,—

The population in 1911 was 7,436, and it is now estimated by natural increase at 7,835.

In all probability, judging by the overcrowding and the number of buildings erected during the ten years, this is under the truth. I reckon the population as at least 8,000; if so, the death and birth rates as shown in this year's figures will be too high.

The natural features remain unchanged; there has been a good deal of deforestation near the Borough and, except down the Quarry Wood, no adequate attempt to replace the timber. This is regrettable from a national and local point of view as well as from the point of public health. The occupations of the inhabitants are as before, and the vital statistics show no incidence of disease due to industries. The causes of death are pretty much the same, as in all localities and communities such as this one.

During 1920 the total rainfall was 29.43in., rather above the average (26.5.) However, of this quantity nearly 5in. fell in December while in the reputed summer months the weather was cool and damp but with very little rainfall, while November was exceptionally dry.

The water in two of the reservoirs was exhausted by September and the town entirely supplied with spring water from the boreholes at the Market Place and Tranwell respectively. On the south side of the river the Allery Banks springs and reservoir held out. The total supply of water per head per day from these boreholes was from 23 to 25 gallons. I may point out that even with this supply there were great complaints of insufficiency in individual cases, especially at the higher end of the town. This should not have occurred, as 20 gallons per head is considered ample, and in some towns with a continual supply less than this is found sufficient and with an intermittent much less, for example, 10 gallons is considered sufficient.

There must have been a considerable amount of waste going on. I believe a house-to-house inspection was undertaken by the Surveyor and revealed a large number of small leakages and wastage going on, in the total amounting to many thousand gallons.

At the time when through intermittent pressure in the mains, the supply to the upper reaches of the town became, as it did, as the day went on, exhausted, a Committee of the Council was appointed to deal with the shortage, which, as is evident from the figures given, was more apparent than real. No assistance could be obtained from the Tynemouth authority, as they were deficient in the filtering area required to supply their own customers.

The river is not, so far as I know, polluted from any source. The sewerage is, as has been for many years, well attended to and satisfactory. I can say, with the exception of the High Church hamlet, to which I have in successive reports drawn attention, the town's drainage and sewerage is ample and efficient. The same applies to sewage disposal.

During the year 21 additional w.c.'s have been erected in the Borough, apart from those in connection with the new housing scheme. Five are substituted for privies and the other 16 are additional. Three privies and ashpits have been abolished and replaced by ash-closets. Compared with 1914 there has been an increase of 46 w.c.'s and diminution of 17 ashpits, covered and uncovered, and a diminution of 11 privies. Most of these changes have been during the last year, as during the war, little or nothing was done, nor could be.

The scavenging is done efficiently and cheaply by the Corporation officials. The refuse is disposed of partly as manure (3855 loads) and partly tipped into pits at Cottingwood (2319

loads.) There is another tipping place used by the tradesmen at the sand-hole on the Common. Apparently the rubbish sent there consists mostly of paper, as many loads of it during windy weather are obviously adorning the hedges and surrounding landscape; surely more care could be taken to avoid this eyesore. No doubt a refuse destructor would add to the thorough equipment of this town, but times are hard and rates are heavy. An appeal should be made to the tradesmen to use more care in the disposal of the refuse, and they should be encouraged to use private incinerators which are not very expensive and not bulky.

I wish again to draw your attention to the suggestion in last year's report regarding the provision of receptacles for odd individual refuse, such as sandwich papers, banana skins, etc., receptacles which are in use in other health resorts.

The Sanitary Inspectors' reports give the number of inspections made during the year, and nuisances dealt with.

Apart from that I have, in the course of my duty, made numerous personal inspections, made suggestions, and given orders.

The number of notices served, statutory and informal, with the results obtained, is given in the Inspectors' reports.

The House Inspector's report is earnestly commended to your notice as a thorough record of efficient work. No action has been taken in regard to offensive trades, the only example of such in the town being the fried fish shops. In these considerable improvements have been effected, and the old nauseating effluvium is less noticeable in all cases and no complaints have reached me.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the town.

One of the common lodging-houses has been closed during the year; the others (3) have been frequently inspected. One of them is structurally defective and is included in an area marked down and passed by the Council for demolition. The other, in Manchester Street, is too much hemmed in on three sides, but has advantages to recommend it.

This class of property is distinctly unpopular to Sanitary Authorities everywhere as well as to the other residents in the neighbourhood. In regard to houses let in tenements (lodgings), the usual notices to clean and limewash passages and yards used in common have been sent; the majority of these are situated in the area already damned by this Council. The schools are all

hygienically satisfactory; there has been no occasion to close the schools during the past year through epidemics. The milk supply is ample and satisfactory, and I have heard of no prosecutions. There has been no occasion to supply milk (or other foods) under the Mothers and Children's Order of 1919. As to meat, there have been no seizures of unhealthy carcasses during the year, but in four cases the butchers drew my attention to meat unfit for consumption, and the necessary action was taken and certificates given. The whole of the slaughter-houses in the Borough, with one exception, are the property of the Council, and are all well kept. There is one licensed and no registered slaughter-houses, and this has been the case since 1903 without change.

There have been 17 cases of infectious disease, removed to the Isolation Hospital, one of erysipelas, one of very bad chicken-pox (suspected small-pox), and 15 scarlet fever. There were no deaths. There has been no epidemic during the year. The cases of scarlet fever were all practically individual and imported, and by promptly removing them all as they occurred the disease got no hold on the town.

Infectious Disease reported to me are as follows:—

Diphtheria	4
Scarlet Fever	15
T.B. Lungs	4
Other Forms T.B.	1
Trench Fever	1
Erysipelas	3
Enteric Fever	1

The housing conditions are still unsatisfactory, and the housing shortage is still acute in the district. There is not only much overcrowding in houses, but these houses are in many cases themselves unfit for the purpose to which they are put.

Details of the work done in connection with this housing question are given in the Inspector's and House Inspector's reports "quovide."

Total Deaths in the Borough - - - - -	122
Total Births - - - - -	237
Deaths under 1 Year - - - - -	24
Population at Census (1911) - - - - -	7436
Population at beginning of 1920 - - - - -	7777
At End of 1920 - - - - -	7892
General Death-rate 1920 per 1,000 - - - - -	15.5
General Birth-rate per 1,000 - - - - -	30.2
Death-rate under 1 Year per 1,000 births	101.2
Deaths in Public Institutions of non-residents	17
Deaths of Residents of Morpeth occurring in other areas - - - - -	17
No correction is needed.	

CAUSES OF DEATH (NET) Natives only.)

Tuberculosis of Lungs	-	-	-	-	-	9
Tuberculosis of other Forms	-	-	-	-	-	5
Malignant Disease and Cancer	-	-	-	-	-	9
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	13
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	-	-	-	13
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	8
Enteritis, Diarrhœa, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	4
Diseases incidental and due to old age	-	-	-	-	-	14
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kidney Disease	-	-	-	-	-	5
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	0
Death by Violence	-	-	-	-	-	4
Uncertified	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	-	-	-	-	-	6
Other causes	-	-	-	-	-	15
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	2
Prematurity	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	-	-	-	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1

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FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORK-PLACES, and
HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.	Inspections.	Notices.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	40	8
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	56	18
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	12	4

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS,
and WORKPLACES.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—

Particulars	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	24	24
Other Nuisances	6	6
Sanitary Accommodation (insufficient, unsuitable or defective, not separate for sexes)	1	1
	31	31

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at end of year:—Blacksmiths' and Horseshoers, 3; Joiners and Cabinetmakers, 6; Coachbuilders and Cartwrights, 2; Other trades, 23.—Total, 34.
28/2/24.

HUGH DICKIE, M.A., M.D.,

M.O.H. (Morpeth Borough.)

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.



INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1920.

The following nuisances have been attended to during the year, viz. :—

Animals improperly kept - - - - -	3
Defective and insufficient ashpit accommodation	31
Accumulation of Manure - - - - -	6
W.C.'s substituted for Privies and Ashpits - - -	5
Additional Water - closets - - - - -	16
Defective Privies and Ashpits - - - - -	9
Defective Water - closets - - - - -	18
Obstructed Drains and Gullies - - - - -	48
Houses Disinfected - - - - -	17
Patients removed to Hospital - - - - -	17
Overcrowding (considerable overcrowding exists owing to housing shortage.)	
Dampness - - - - -	2
Yards requiring cleansing - - - - -	56
Unsound Meat - - - - -	4
Informal Notices served - - - - -	162

SLAUGHTER - HOUSES.

Public Slaughter - houses (occupied) - - - - -	7
Do. (unoccupied) - - - - -	1
Private Slaughter - houses - - - - -	1
Inspections made - - - - -	48
Notice to Cleanse, &c. - - - - -	19

COMMON LODGING - HOUSES.

Registered Lodging - houses - - - - -	4
Sleeping Accommodation - - - - -	185
Inspections made - - - - -	48
Notice to Cleanse, &c. - - - - -	19

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

Factories - - - 21	Inspections made -	40
Workshops - - - 34	Do.	56
Work Places - - - 6	Do.	12
No Outworkers' Lists received during the year.		

J. DAVISON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING.

Report of the Housing Inspector for Year Ending December 31st, 1920.

Number of Houses Inspected during 1920 - - -	90
Number of Houses previously inspected again	
re-visited	32

DEFECTS FOUND.

Structural Defects - - - - -	177
Nuisances - - - - -	5
Overcrowding - - - - -	7
Unfit for Habitation - - - - -	2
Defective Spouting - - - - -	20
Dampness - - - - -	15
Insufficient Water Supply - - - - -	1
Insufficient and Defective Drainage - - - - -	3
Untrapped Sinks - - - - -	2
Defective Sanitary Conveniences - - - - -	17
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences - - - - -	9
In Foul Condition - - - - -	13
Insufficient Lighting - - - - -	5
Insufficient Ventilation - - - - -	8
Insufficient Refuse Receptacles - - - - -	15
Contravention of Bye-laws - - - - -	5
Unpaved Yards - - - - -	6
Houses Demolished - - - - -	2
Houses to be Demolished - - - - -	1
Copies of Reports sent to Owners - - - - -	51
Informal Notices served on 14 Owners requiring works to be executed to 19 houses -	19
Statutory Notice in respect of Houses - - - - -	20
Closing Orders made - - - - -	0
Intention to close orders made - - - - -	0
Houses repaired during year ending December, 1920	72
Repairs to Houses in hand on December 31st, 1920	18

ROBERT N. ARMSTRONG.

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.



BOROUGH SURVEYOR'S REPORT for Year Ending December 31st, 1920.



Mr. MAYOR and GENTLEMEN,—

New Buildings. — During the year 24 plans were submitted for proposed new buildings, alterations and additions to buildings. Of these, three plans were rejected, and in two cases the work was held up as being likely to interfere with the Council's building scheme. One of the latter was a proposed new Mineral Water Factory for Messrs. Waters and Robson.

The majority of the plans submitted were for small additions to or alterations to existing buildings, and the erection of Army Huts for warehouse purposes, etc. Additions to Carlisle House and the completion of the new Bank for Messrs. Barclay in the Market Place were amongst the most important carried out. None of the Council's houses have been completed ready for occupation. It is understood, however, a few will be ready early in 1921.

Improvements. — No Private Street Works have been carried out during the year, while the contemplated improvements at Orde House, Dark Lane, and St. George's Church remain in abeyance.

Main Roads & Highways.—Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining road material during the greater part of the year, and a roller could not be hired until the autumn. Tarred stone in any quantity was out of the question, and the extensive repairs required had to be carried out by the old-fashioned water-bound method. The intention being to tar spray the surface in the Spring as the season was too far advanced before repairs were completed to permit of spraying before the wet weather began.

The Newcastle and Berwick Main Road was metalled entirely, except for a short section at each end of the town,—the Morpeth to Newbiggin Main Road from Bridge Street to Howard Street and a section near East Mill, the main streets practically their entire length. The Market Place was partially relaid; Lumsden's Lane re-instated after damage by heavy motors; and Howard Street, Copper Chare, Wellway, and Dacre Street were repaired. The total quantity of road material rolled in was 1,447 tons, including 211 tons of tar macadam. Outside of town the paths were ashed.

Plans, specification and estimates were prepared for constructing a new road on High Stanners with a view to obtaining sanction for a loan to carry out the work.

Water Supply.—During 1920 the rainfall has been above the average, the total being 29.43 inches. Of this quantity 4.88 inches fell in December. The reservoirs at Tranwell were exhausted by the middle of September; no water was available from the Tynemouth Corporation's mains, and the town's supply was obtained entirely by pumping from the boreholes at Tranwell and the Market Place, with the exception of the area south of the river, supplied by the Allery Banks reservoir. The engine and pump at Tranwell were run day and night for a considerable period, as was also the pump at the Clock Tower. The engine at Tranwell ran 2,714 hours and cost for attendance £199 6s 10d; oil fuel, £96 3s; and lubricant oil nearly £4. The quantity of water raised was 13,190,040 gallons at a cost of 5.45d. per 1,000 gallons. The pump and engine are capable of delivering over three times the quantity of water the borehole yields at present.

The Clock Tower pump was run 2,680 hours, the cost of gas being £68 15s. 5d., and attendance £49 4s 9d, lubricant £2. The quantity of water raised was 5,628,000 gallons at the Tower, making a total of 18,818,040 gallons pumped, equal to a supply per head of 23.86 gallons, assuming 7,000 as the population supplied from these sources, and 1,000 from Allery Banks reservoir. The cost per thousand gallons at the Clock Tower was 5.07d.

During the autumn there was some difficulty in maintaining a pressure sufficient to keep a constant supply at the higher end of the town, and for some weeks a supply could only be given for a few hours each morning; by the end of the year, however, the storage reservoirs were full.

That a tremendous waste of water was going on was evident from the fact that when the mains were turned off during the night there were 20,000 gallons less water in the receiving tank at the sewage pumping station on the following morning. A house-to-house inspection of water fittings showed there were a considerable number of defective water fittings and many cases of negligent waste. A special committee was appointed to consider the question of improving the supply and to deal with the prevalent waste. The Committee recommended that Messrs. Mansfield of Liverpool be engaged to report on the possibility of obtaining a supply by putting down as suggested to the Committee a larger and deeper borehole near the existing borehole in the Market Place, and also to examine Tranwell well and borehole and to test other places in the locality with a view to obtaining a supply by gravitation. The advantages of pumping in the town are that either gas or electric power are available and the cost of attendance much less than at Tranwell.

Sewerage.—Approximately there have been 90,000,000 gallons of sewage treated during the year. The pumps were run 2,097 hours. There have been no complaints in respect of the works, and the effluent was uniformly good. Eighty-one loads of dried sludge have been disposed of as manure.

Workmen's Dwellings.—These have been fully occupied, the number of applicants being greater than ever. There has been no change in the tenancy. There are no arrears of rent owing nor has there been any loss since the houses were built and occupied. Rents were increased during the year on account of the increases in rates.

Fire Brigade.—During the year Mr. W. Lee, who had acted as Second Officer for some time and was actually in charge of the Brigade, died, and Mr. C. Haswell was elected in his place, subsequently taking the post of Chief Officer, and Mr. J. Stewart was appointed Second Officer. Drills have been held monthly. There were two calls to fires during the year, one to Netherwitton and the other in the town.

Scavenging & Horses.—During the year 3,855 loads of ash manure have been disposed of, and 2,369 loads led to the rubbish tip. 1,319 tanks or 527,600 gallons of water was used for street watering purposes. This was pumped from the river by motor pump. 263 loads of ashes were led to outside paths, and 164 loads of mud and road sweepings were led.

Other work included leading 37 loads of coal and oil, street sweeping, cutting hay and leading. In addition a considerable quantity of road material was led from the Station to main roads and other highways, also water and binding to the roller.

There are 27 covered ashpits, 42 uncovered, 159 privies with fixed receptacles, and 220 with moveable receptacles. There are 860 water closets in the town, 21 of these having been provided during the year 1920.

Lighting.—The whole of the street lamps have been lighted during the period from the last Saturday in July to Dec. 31st; but from Jan. 1st to May 13th the fixings of lamps was not complete until the end of the half-year.

The number of lamps in the Borough are as follows:—168 small lamps, 80 c.p.; 10 large lamps, 150 c.p.; and one special sewer ventilating lamp; 50 small lamps, and 5 of the larger type are all nightlamps; the remainder are extinguished at midnight; the cost for the half-year being £690 10s 5d.

Cattle Market.—The following figures show the number of cattle, cows, pigs, sheep, calves and horses shown in the Market since the present Market was opened in 1903. The numbers shown during 1920 are the smallest recorded since the market was opened:

	YEAR	CATTLE	CCWS	PIGS	SHEEP	CALVES	HORSES	FAT CATTLE
Nov. 1st to Dec. 31st.	1903	629						
January to December	1904	15383		1229				
"	1905	12660		1057	2800			522
"	1906	16861		1096	130			7
"	1907	18331		1580				
"	1908	13740		1280				
"	1909	14652		761				
"	1910	14985		704				
"	1911	11532		941				
"	1912	7445		792	64			28
"	1913	12178		277				
"	1914	6543		160		34		
"	1915	4867	30	161		57	55	
"	1916	4377	458	199	591	25		
"	1917	5407	356	127		18		
"	1918	8546	306	124		15		
"	1919	5842	428	56	1526		260	
"	1920	3602	328	17	407		49	

Corporation Properties.—The whole of these have been fully occupied; there are no arrears of rent.

There were fewer cattle on the Common than in some previous years, and pasturage was good.

A crop of hay was taken off the 10 acres field fenced in during 1919.

Parks.—An Army Hut has been erected in the Parks to form a Public Shelter and Pavilion for catering purposes. Nothing has been done in regard to the formation of greens for bowling and tennis playing as yet, although a general plan of the lay-out has been obtained.

RECEIPTS.

U.D.C. Receipts.—The following amounts have been received and paid to the treasurer, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
				Outstanding.			
Workmen's Dwellings (Rent) -	984	5	6				
Slaughter-house (Rents) - -	72	17	6				
Gardens at High Stanners -	44	3	0	„	1	12	0
Piggeries, Fields, &c. - -	13	5	0				
Manure Sold - - - - -	151	4	9	„	46	17	6
Water Charged - - - - -	158	2	10	„	33	18	5
Work Charged - - - - -	220	3	1	„	21	0	1
Fire Brigade Charges - - -	28	6	0	„	5	1	0
Horses sold - - - - -	36	7	0				
Lavatories - - - - -	59	10	8				
Advertising Spaces (C. Mkt.)	0	0	0	„	4	19	0
Cattle Market Tolls - - -	39	6	3				
Stallages (Market Place) -	53	14	3				
Butter and Egg Market - -	15	13	1				
Goods Sold - - - - -	22	4	6	„	4	9	6
	£1899	3	5		£117	17	6

CORPORATION RECEIPTS:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
				Outstanding.		
House Rents - - - - -	89	7	10			
Shop Rents - - - - -	13	8	0			
Garden Rents - - - - -	78	19	3			
Damage to Swings - - - - -	0	7	0			
Goods Sold (Scrap) - - - - -	4	10	0			
Borough Hall and Schools - -	32	19	6			
Grazing on Common - - - -	3	0	0			
Rifle Range Rent and Damage	84	19	6			
Circus on High Stanners - -	10	0	0			
	£317	11	1			

JOHN DAVISON,**Borough Surveyer.**

